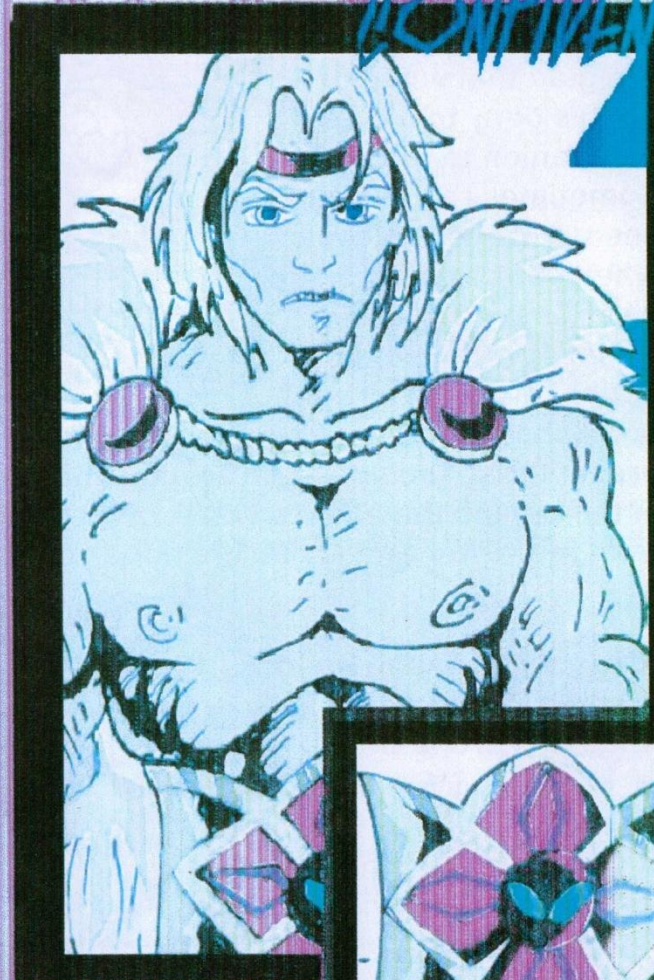
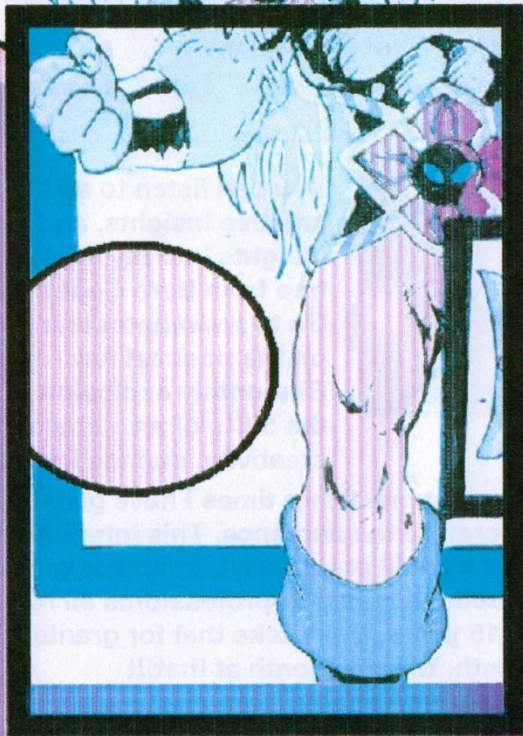
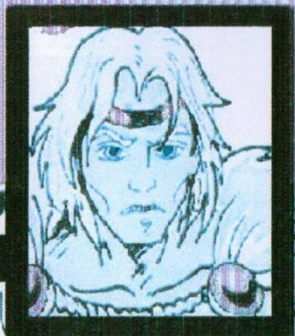


HOU.

CONFIDENTIAL



ISSUE 2
\$1.00

Welcome!!!!

This is the second issue of HCU:Confidential. We are glad that you picked up this copy to act as a companion to the series. Sometimes things can seem to get out of hand when you are working on a series like this one.

Anger, love, romance, action, drama, and such conflict can confuse a reader when it is thus presented to them. Insight into the mechanics of the behind the scenes can provide insight from the writer and artist. We hope you enjoy!



Created by Jason Bullock
Pencils by Jason Bullock
Inks by Verona Oliver-Rutherford, Jason Bullock & German Carratal Martinez
Letters by Hero Central Studio
Digital colors by Steve Lisefski
Publisher – GIRAFNetwork
Sponsor – United Fanzine Organization

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What is all this HCU?

Hero Central Universe started out as a side project that I submitted to the UFO group for membership. It has since developed into a rolling snowball down the creative hill that is my life, not sledding, skiing, or even falling. Demolishing everything in its way like a frosty the snowman, this project has truly overwhelmed my creative bunny slope. I do love it however. The development of projects can be hard to follow as a reader. I always say just sit back and enjoy the ride! The current format for the releases include a color cover by myself and digital artist Steven Lisefski out of New Jersey. The interior artwork is black & white counting from 16 pages to 32. The price however is always \$3.00 PPD for hardcopy and 99 cents for digital download.

HCU, as I call it, is a superhero drama that deals with a cadre of ancient heroes and gods revived in our modern era to battle the return of an ancient General of Darkness, Vlad Tepes and his army. These living myths bring about the creation of a new patrol to defend mankind in this age. All the same standard bearers are present in any good drama, good, evil, conflict, morality, stewardship and obligation.

The key to understanding what's going on in this series is to comprehend where its coming from, weapon, warrior, or will-caster. The origin of the characters here are tied to their past lives. If you understand that then you will come to know and appreciate the newer heroes under their mentorship in the superhero organization they create called Hero Central. I really hope that this Confidential release helps you understand the nuances of HCU and its current roster Jade Scarab, Lylac Greystoke, Michael Faraday Esq, Flora Ironwood, Dr.Sidereal, Uberfraulein, and Kachina. Enjoy!!!

Previously... FEBRUARY

Here we catch up
On what's happened.



In Issue #2, we the origin of Blake Whitman, Dr Sidereal, as he is exposed to the extra-dimensional rift energy as the Orbitals crash in the Mongolian Desert. We are also privy to the inner romance between Isis and Sinbad as they search the city of New York for the source of ultimate evil. The issue finished with a brief respite into the lives of stranded aliens Flora Ironwood and Michael Faraday, Esq. Taking a break from re-building their spaceship, Michael takes Flora on a date to play pool at a local bar. This does not bode well when the locals want to play too.

In Issue #3, we meet Stella Maris, Chicago's premier ADA coming out of a bad defeat in court. Running into an old friend, she decides to go for a drink with her friend at a local bar. This frivolity is interrupted when she is taken by Isis' magic into a pocket realm where she is then conscripted to act as the Avatar of Isis on Earth in a separate attempt to find this source of evil that woke them from their sleep. Herakles goes to an old family member from Olympus to get his own advantage. Finally, we see Michael Faraday getting romance advice from his android friend LAN.



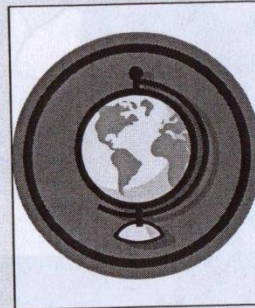
Writing Drama in HCU

It has been said that some of the interactions that I have written for several Of the leads in HCU is tantamount to dialoguing for jerks. I have to say that Crafting scripts for a story that you must temper the encounters, whatever The encounters. You don't want all the same thing on every page. If conflict Is the main course then you temper it with humor. If you are writing tragedy, Pepper it with irony. For comedy, you have to salt it with pain. It is within These positive-negative relationship parallel encounters that we all can Identify with. Mankind is ultimately defined by its suffering.

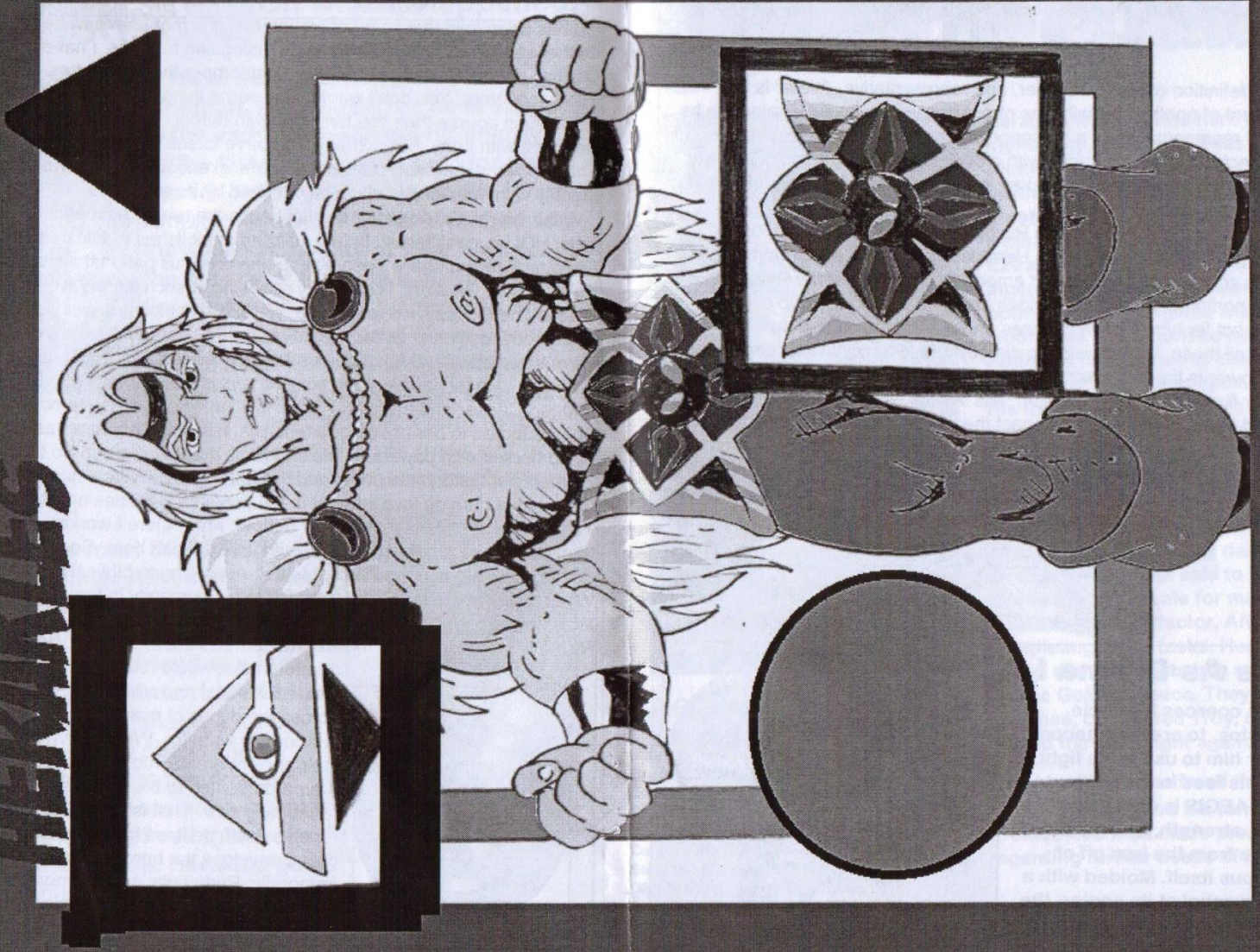
Within literature, drama or conflict keeps the reader suspended within the Tale. HCU is no different. In fact, utilizing established public domain persona From mythology, I have been able to use previous national attitudes as well To embellish the story. Historically speaking in such literary works as The Illiad & The Odessy, we read about Herakles' exploits as well as labors as a Prominent position in Greece and Rome. In Sharazade's Arabian Nights, we Have travelled with Sinbad across the seven seas. His reputation for being Amorous with the ladies along his journeys is well established. Shakespeare Penned Caesar and Cleopatra at the beginning of her rise to power, which She attributed to her patron goddess Isis. Isis like Cleopatra has always Allied herself with powerful males. In HCU it is no different. So I took those Elements of history and combined them with modern locales and dialogue. I Gave Isis a burning love interest in the powerful Herakles only to have it Tampered with by the womanizer Sinbad. From there I worked on developing Merlyn battle to provide his world with an Arthurian hero. So too did I do the Same with Solomon the Wise of Israel. According to biblical scholars, the Wisest man who ever lived yet he fell to his humanity in the end despite the Wondrous things he had done. He seemed very apropos for the Pantheon Rising in Hero Central Universe. Raiden was another protector of this Middle

Kingdom that would round out this group.

These historical and religious levels of conflict across the pages of mankind's past seemed so delicious to write for. What I have done is extend their ancient drama into our modern era. The drama presented to the readers of HCU is by far nothing new. That is my point. History always repeats itself. Jealous lovers causing wars as greed envelops the heroes causing them to act immorally. Pride pulls against morality. Its just a continuation of what was started thousands of years ago for your reading escapism. Otherwise it would be just boring.



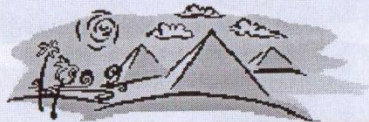
HERAKLES



What's an Avatar?

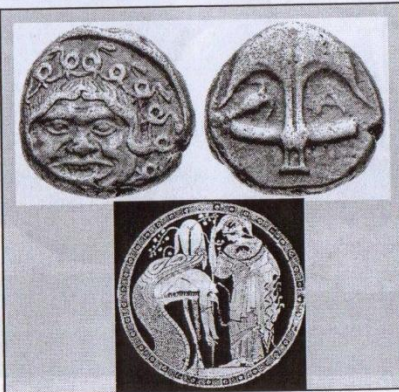
Like the definition of proxy, retainer, and representative, Avatar is the Embodiment of another, usually one of position or power. An Avatar can be The visual representation of a presence located elsewhere. Avatars are Also connected to divine sources with a portion of their benefactor's power Or abilities to represent them. The key to the importance of an Avatar is that They represent their divine source.

In HCU, several of the Pantheon Rising members decide to choose to search for evil in varying methods. Herakles chooses to act directly in Isis' Plans. Isis chooses an agent to act among the humans as her Avatar, thus Holding a portion of her power. Raiden chooses to train a group of young Heroes to act for him. Merlyn chooses another champion to defend the World. Of all these, Isis' decision to directly infuse a mortal with direct other-Worldly power is the best example of creating an avatar. Unlike Merlyn's "Arthur" or Raiden's Hero Central, Jr., Isis' Avatar, A.D.A. Stella Maris is best Positioned in the mortal realm to enact the greatest impact on discovering The location of the loosed evil upon the current world. Choosing the moniker Aesys, Stella now acts as the cleansing element among the Tortelli Crime Family. Her subversion of its resources seems like the first step among many As a powerful avatar of the Egyptian goddess Isis. What's next?



Props As Drama !

Herakles coerces his uncle, Haepastos, to create a second Aegis for him to use in his fight against his foes in the modern era. The AEGIS is unbreakable in material, strength, and defense. It is made from the iron off of Mt Olympus itself. Molded with a Medusa symbol at its center, the Aegis amplifies Herakles strength by weakening his opponents that face him. It's a super cheat code!



Wiki-Myths!

Accounts of Myths taken straight from Wiki-pedia, where anything and everything is open to interpretation



Heracles was a divine hero in Greek mythology, the son of Zeus and Alcmene, great-grandson (and half-brother) of Perseus. He was the greatest of the Greek heroes, a paragon of masculinity.

Extraordinary strength, courage, ingenuity, and sexual prowess with both males and females were among his characteristic attributes. Although he was not as clever as the likes of Odysseus or Nestor.

His iconographic attributes are the lion skin and the club. These qualities did not prevent him from being regarded as a playful figure who used games to relax from his labors and played a great deal with children. By conquering dangerous archaic forces he is said to have "made the world safe for mankind" and to be its benefactor. After completing these tasks, Heracles joined the Argonauts in a search for the Golden Fleece. They rescued heroines, conquered Troy, and helped the gods fight against the

Gigantes. Heracles freed the Titan from his chains and his torments. Prometheus then made predictions regarding further deeds of Heracles.

Gigantes. Heracles freed the Titan from his chains and his torments. Prometheus then made predictions regarding further deeds of Heracles.

The Twelve Labors

- Slay the Nemean Lion.
- Slay the nine-headed Lernaean Hydra.
- Capture the Golden Hind of Artemis.
- Capture the Erymanthian Boar.
- Clean the Augean stables in a single day.
- Slay the Stymphalian Birds.
- Capture the Cretan Bull.
- Steal the Mares of Diomedes.
- Obtain the girdle of Hippolyta.
- Obtain the cattle of the monster Geryon.
- Steal the apples of the Hesperides
(He had the help of Atlas to pick them after Hercules had slain Ladon).
- Capture and bring back Cerberus.



UFO CHECKLIST



The **United Fanzine Organization (UFO)** is a co-op of small press comics publishers and creators dedicated to setting a higher standard of quality in independent and alternative press. The members mutually aid each other in the promotion and production of their publications. Any small-press publisher who is interested in membership in the UFO should contact the Chariman, **Steve Shipley**, by postal mail at **1823 Eastgate Rd., Toledo, OH 43614** or you can email him at steveshipley7@gmail.com Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/42714039664/

TETRAGRAMMATION FRAGMENTS! #233:

The new issue of the UFO Newsletter that is the central forum for members, containing columns & artistic work that can't be found anywhere else. Available for \$2.00 postpaid from **Steve Shipley** (see address above).

BEYOND HUMAN #3: The continuing saga of a monstrous teen outcast and his cruel tormenters. 28-page B&W digest-size comic with color cover for \$4.00 postpaid from **Hal Jones, 615 Mountain Springs Estates, Odenville, AL 35120**. You can email Battleline Comics at kjones003@centurytel.net or visit www.haljonesbeyondhuman.com

DITKOMANIA #88: The "international issue" of this fanzine about comics creator Steve Ditko looks at how his work has been seen in other countries. 32-page B&W digest for \$2.50 postpaid in the USA from **Rob Imes, 13510 Cambridge #307, Southgave MI 48195** or email robimes@yahoo.com for more info.

FANTASY THEATER #22: New adventure of the female barbarian **Glorianna**, plus a backup tale about **Capella**. A letters page (including fan art) rounds out this 32-page B&W digest-size comic for \$2.00 postpaid from **J. Kevin Carrier, 1800 Leven Lane, Milford, OH 45150**. Email jcarrier@aol.com for more.

HERO CENTRAL UNIVERSE #6: Introducing Egyptian superhero **Jade Scarab**, plus the return of **Flora Ironwood** in this mythological saga. This 24-page B&W digest comic with color cover is \$3.00 postpaid from **Jason Bullock, P.O. Box 2684, Loganville, GA 30052**. You can email Jason@girafnetwork.com for more info or visit <http://www.girafnetwork.org>

HERO CENTRAL, JR. #1: a new series that introduces a teen superhero team! Full color 16-page digest for only \$2.00 postpaid from **Jason Bullock** (address above).

PAPER & INK #3: The newest issue of this review-zine covering the world of small-press and indie comics. This issue has an interview with *Tales of Fantasy* creator **Larry Johnson** plus many reviews or recent releases. Only \$2.00 for a 4-issue subscription from **Steve Shipley, 1825 Eastgate Rd., Toledo, OH 43614** or email steveshipley7@gmail.com

PLAGUE #1: Sam Gafford reprints his tale of alien invasion & scientific complicity in this debut issue. A 28-page B&W digest comic book, available for \$3.00 from **Sam Gafford, 624 Metacom Ave., Warren, RI 02885**. Email lordshazam@yahoo.com for more info.

***PPFSZT! #37:** The new issue of this classic anthology has a science fiction theme, with comics by **Dan Burke, Rock Baker, Brian Wayne Powell**, and more! Full-size 56-page B&W comic with color covers. Available for \$6.75 postpaid from **Jim Main, 13 Valley View Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804**. Email jmain44@aol.com for more info, or visit www.mainenterprises.ecrater.com

SLAM BANG #47: Dan Burke takes over the long-time anthology (previously published by Allen Freeman) with comics ranging from slice-of-life to pure satire. This 52-page full-size magazine is printed in full color. Available for \$10.00 postpaid from **Dan Burke, 2334 NE Holiday Ave., Unit 4, Bend, OR 97701** or visit him on the web at www.attackearth.com for more info.

TALES OF FANTASY #58: this issue features the return of **Zooy**, this comic's signature character, in a brand new science fiction adventure, "The Mighty Yammite" plus **Dream Diary**, a lengthy letters column and **Space Cat**. 40-page digest size comic for \$3.00 from **Larry Johnson, 31 Greenbrook Rd., Hyde Park, MA 02136**. You can email LewBrown75@yahoo.com for more info or visit www.LarryJohnsonartist.com.

THE BRIDE OF ODD: Thick digest-sized trade paperback by **Dan Burke** containing satire, articles, conversations from the UFO Facebook page, and more. Available for \$9.99 at www.amazon.com

UNREAL #0: A new anthology comic revival of the classic zine by **Rod Snyder**, which is available *only* as a free PDF from **Jim Main**. Email him at jmain44@aol.com

VALIANT EFFORTS Vol. 3 #2: Return of The Golden Protector! Full-size 24-page B&W comic with a color cover. Available for \$3.00 postpaid from **Don Ensign, 250-A S. Paseo Cerro, Green Valley, AZ 85614**. Email him at donensign@yahoo.com

CHARACTER BIO:

Name: Michael Faraday, Esq

Age: 29

Gender: Male

Height: 5'9"

Weight: 275 lbs

Hair Color: Red, Varies

Eye Color: Varies

Planet of Origin:

Terra Sigma, Vega System

Skills: Cybernetics,
Bio-physics, Medicine,
Nano-technology,
Engineering, Drawing,
Software Engineering,
Cycling

Advanced Abilities:

Nano-regeneration
Computer Control Interface
Cybernetic Speed
Cybernetic Strength
Cybernetic Endurance
Nano-sensory capabilities
Munitions and Energy
expulsion

based enhancements which saved his live after a motorcycle event went awry. Even though his planet frowns on artificial prevention of death, Michael built an android named LAN with the help of his labs computers to perform the life saving surgeries. He joined their world's Military Exploration League where he found Flora Ironwood on Magalena Prime. They have been romantically involved ever since.

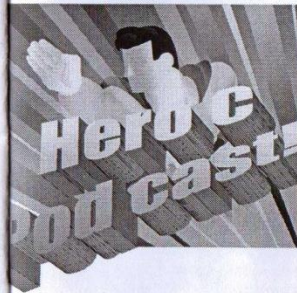
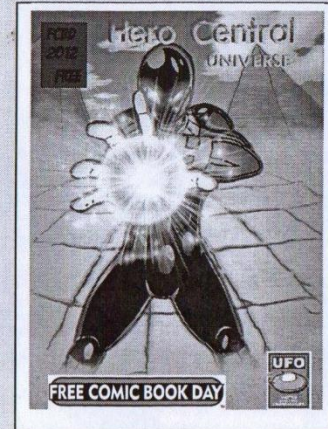
Despite Michael's machine-like attitude to work, Flora convinced him to take that fateful cruise holiday on board the living space cruiser GEOTODE. While she works in our world to make money for them to survive, Michael Faraday and LAN are repairing the damaged core of the GEOTODE. He hopes to get them back through the rift and home.



FREE COMIC BOOK -DAY-

- May 5, 2012 -

Still Available online is the free digital copy of this year's Free Comic Book Day Edition. You can download it for free until December 2012 from www.girafnetwork.org ! Don't miss out.



You can listen to all the crazy rants, creative insights, and overall nutty insights into my artistic process for free from Hero Central Studio here! Go to www.herocentral.org and click on the podcast link to hear the latest Bi-monthly explosion of fun. I cover the 5 C's of art...character, comics, creativity, connections & culture.

Sometimes it's just me. Other times I have guests one and all to explain their craft to the audience. This interaction shows the connection as a small press artist, freelance graphic designer, writer, and published teacher/professional all rolled into one over the last 15 years. Don't take that for granted. Check us out every month, twice a month at that!!!

www.herocentral.org